

Town of New Fairfield
Board of Finance
4 Brush Hill Road
New Fairfield, CT 06812

MINUTES
Board of Finance Regular Meeting
Wednesday, December 18, 2019
7:30 PM
New Fairfield Community Room

Members present:

Wes Marsh, Chairman
Michael Cammarota
Jane Landers
Cheryl Reedy
Tom Garben, Alternate
Brian Shea, Alternate
Greg Williams, Alternate

Members not present:

Erin Badillo
Anthony Yorio

Other Town Officials Present:

Ed Sbordone, Finance Director
Pat Del Monaco, First Selectman

Call To Order Chairman Wes Marsh called the meeting to order at 7:30pm

Pledge of Allegiance

Appointments-Wes Marsh noted that Anthony Yorio will be unavailable for tonight's meeting and has asked that Brian Shea serve in his place and that Erin Badillo will be unavailable and asked that Tom Garben serve in her place.

Correspondence and Announcements- None

Public Comment-None

Approval of minutes

Wes Marsh made a motion to approve the minutes of the November 20, 2019 regular meeting as presented. Jane Landers seconded the motion. **Vote: 6-0-0 (Motion approved)**

Appointment of Board of Finance Chairman

Jane Landers made a motion to nominate Wes Marsh to serve as Chairman of the Board of Finance. Cheryl Reedy seconded the motion.

Cheryl Reedy made a motion to close the nominations for Chairman of the Board of Finance. Jane Landers seconded the motion.

Vote to close nominations: 6-0-0 (Motion approved)

Vote for Wes Marsh as Chairman: 6-0-0 (Motion approved)

Wes Marsh was voted Chairman of the Board of Finance

Appointment of Board of Finance Clerk

Cheryl Reedy made a motion to nominate Jane Landers to serve as Clerk of the Board of Finance. Michael Cammarota seconded the motion.

Wes Marsh made a motion to nominate Michael Cammarota to serve as Clerk of the Board of Finance. Jane Landers seconded the motion.

Wes Marsh made a motion to close the nominations for Clerk of the Board of Finance. Michael Cammarota seconded the motion.

Vote to close nominations: 6-0-0 (Motion approved)

Vote for Jane Landers as Clerk: (Cheryl Reedy and Michael Cammarota)

Vote for Michael Cammarota as Clerk: (Brian Shea, Wes Marsh, Jane Landers and Tom Garben)

Michael Cammarota was voted Clerk of the Board of Finance.

Budget transfers

Wes Marsh made a motion approve the transfer of the following Inter-Departmental transfer in the amount of \$3,500.00. Michael Cammarota seconded the motion.

Vote: 6-0-0 (Motion approved)

\$	Transfer From		\$	Transfer To	
\$3,500.00	4160-140	Unclass P & B Salary Adjustments	\$3,500.00	4290-110	Emergency Planning-Salaries
\$3,500.00			\$3,500.00		

Wes Marsh made a motion to approve the following Additional Appropriation (Town Meeting required) in the amount of \$35,275.00. Jane Landers seconded the motion.

Vote: 6-0-0 (Motion approved)

\$	Transfer From		\$	Transfer To	
\$35,275.00	301-4295-7	Cap & Non-Animal control	\$35,275.00	4295-610	Animal control-Materials and Supplies
\$35,275.00			\$35,275.00		

Boat Dock invoice

Cheryl Reedy made a motion to approve the invoice in the amount of \$908.30 from Race Engineering for the boat docks. Michael Cammarota seconded the motion.

Vote: 6-0-0 (Motion approved)

High School and Consolidated School project update

Wes Marsh noted that the Permanent Building Committee Chairman George Marginetti will come to the January BOF meeting to give an update of the building projects for the high school and Consolidated School. He will also send a schedule of meetings for the PBC in case any BOF members would like to attend. It was noted that the architect for the project has been selected and the Owner’s Representative will be chosen soon. There was a brief description of the scope of the architect and the Owner’s Representative.

It was noted that BOF member Anthony Yorio has been appointed to be an alternate member of the Permanent Building Committee.

Board of Education budget surplus for fiscal year 2018-2019

This will be discussed at the BOF meeting in January 2020.

Annual Audit status

The Audit Subcommittee will meet with the auditors in January. It was noted that the audit needs to be filed by January 31st.

Board of Finance Department budget for fiscal year 2020/2021

It was decided to table the approval of the BOF budget until the January meeting when there is a more concrete number for the cost of the audit.

Discussion of Elderly Tax relief program

Wes Marsh noted that he got information regarding the current tax relief program from the Assessor. There was a discussion on the two types of programs (tax credit and tax deferral) and how to make sure that residents are aware of the programs. There was a suggestion of the possibility of putting a committee together to research the programs. Cheryl Reedy volunteered to research the programs and state statutes regarding tax relief. It was decided that an article should be put in the Town Tribune regarding tax relief in the near future.

School Safety and Security Committee update- No update

Board of Finance article for the Town Tribune

The Board decided to defer submitting an article until January.

ONGOING UPDATES

Medical update- The board reviewed the medical balance and discussed reasons for the decrease in the reserve fund. There was a discussion of how the HSA affects the rolling average. There was a suggestion of having the consultant come to the February BOF meeting.

Legal update- The balance in the legal budget as of December 11, 2019 is \$100,293.

Year to date expenses review

There was a brief discussion of the police officer salaries. It was noted that less than the budgeted amount was expended since no School Resource Officer has been hired yet. All four schools have coverage by a state trooper making the overtime police salaries higher.

It was noted that there may also be a need for a transfer for the Town Engineer salary in the near future.

Current year revenue update- Medicare reimbursement was discussed.

Capital and nonrecurring update- There was a brief discussion of the military banners that have recently been hung around town.

Public Comment- John McCartney spoke of a presentation that he recently attended at the Senior Center sponsored by the Commission on the Aging. As part of this presentation, tax relief was discussed and it was noted that many Senior Citizens did not want to freeze taxes since it would cause younger families to pay

more. He noted that New Fairfield's tax relief program is similar to surrounding towns and New Fairfield's senior population is much higher than that of surrounding towns.

Future agenda items- The Board will discuss the following in the near future:

- Audit
- School construction update and presentation from the Permanent Building Committee
- BOE Surplus
- BOF budget for 2020-2021

Board member comments

Members of the board wished everyone Happy Holidays and a happy 2020!

Adjournment

Wes Marsh made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 8:50 pm. Michael Cammarota seconded the motion.

Vote: 6-0-0 (Motion approved)